

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: SLOVENE INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY REACTS TO WESTERN
CRITICISM OF "POLITICAL" TRIALS

REF: (A) 76 ZAGREB 907, (B) 76 ZAGREB 815

1. IN INTERVIEW IN JANUARY 5 EDITION OF ZAGREB DAILY
"VJESNIK," SLOVENE SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS MARJAN
OROZEN REACTS TO WESTERN PRESS CRITICISM OF TWO RECENT
TRIALS IN SLOVENIA. OROZEN NOTES THAT FOREIGN REPORTERS
ATTENDED TRIAL OF SLOVENIA JUDGE FRANC MIKLAVCIC, CON-
VICTED OF "ACTS AGAINST THE STATE AND PEOPLE" (REFTEL A),
AND ATTEMPTED TO "BUILD THE CASE INTO ONE OF WORLD PRO-
PORTIONS." OROZEN SAYS IT WAS SAME WITH CASE OF
JOURNALIST VIKTOR BLAZIC, CONVICTED OF CARRYING OUT
HOSTILE PROPAGANDA (REFTEL B). "FOREIGN REPORTERS,"
OROZEN COMMENTS, "ATTEMPTED TO PORTRAY THE TRIAL AS A
POLITICAL TRIAL, AN ATTACK ON FREEDOM, ALTHOUGH THE IN-
DICTMENT CHARGED BLAZIC WITH CERTAIN WHOLLY CRIMINAL ACTS."
OROZEN CONCLUDES, "I THINK THAT IN THESE EXAMPLES, WHICH
SPEAK EVEN OF THE DIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE,
ONE CAN BEST SEE THE INTEREST IN OUR COUNTRY OF THE IN-
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TERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENEMY AND WHAT MEANS THAT ENEMY USES
TO DESTROY OUR SECURITY AND SELF-MANAGED POLITICAL
INTEGRITY."

2. COMMENT. OROZEN'S REMARKS SHOW THAT YUGOSLAVS ARE
INDEED SENSITIVE TO FOREIGN PRESS COVERAGE OF POLITICAL
TRIALS. HOWEVER, IN EYES OF SOME OF THOSE MOST INVOLVED

IN CARRYING OUT INTERNAL SECURITY POLICY, SUCH AS OROZEN,
ATTENTION FROM WESTERN PRESS MAY BE SEEN ONLY AS FURTHER
CONFIRMATION OF GUILT OF ACCUSED. KAISER

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